

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9318

S E C R E T CAIRO 0678

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

1. I ASKED FAHMY TODAY ABOUT EGYPT'S READING OF CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY MUCH CONCERNED. HE VIEWED ARAB LEAGUE HANDS ARE TIED BECAUSE GOL CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO ASK FOR ARAB LEAGUE INVOLVEMENT. MEANWHILE, SYRIANS CONTINUE TO PLAY DISRUPTIVE ROLE. SYRIA HAD RECENTLY SENT IN FOUR BATTALIONS OF SA'IQA TROOPS UNDER BRIGADIER ALI UMRAN ALWI. THESE WERE IN FACT SYRIAN TROOPS, ALTHOUGH SOME PALESTINIAN VOLUNTEERS HAD GONE ALONG.

2. FAHMY CLAIMED THAT NEITHER THE PRESIDENT NOR HE HAD BEEN APPRISED OF CURRENT USG POSITION ON LEBANESE SITUATION. I RECALLED I HAD DISCUSSED LEBANESE SITUATION WITH HIM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND AGAIN OUTLINED USG POSITION AS I HAD EARLIER RECOUNTED IT TO HIM (75 CAIRO 10240). I KNEW OF NO CHANGE IN THAT POSITION. IF ARABS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT SITUATION, THERE IS CLEARLY LITTLE USG CAN DO TO HELP.

3. FAHMY AVOIDED SPECIFICS ON WHAT GOE MAY BE DOING, AND SIMPLY NOTED CONTACTS WITH OTHER ARAB AND LEBANESE LEADERS ARE CONTINUING. IN PRINCIPLE, GOE

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OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND LEBANESE PROBLEM SHOULD

BE RESOLVED IN ARAB CONTEXT. HE HAD NO POSITIVE
IDEAS ON HOW TO DO SO.

4. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO GIVE FAHMY AN UPDATE OF
OUR READING OF LEBANESE SITUATION AND ANY ACTION WE
MAY BE TAKING.
EILTS

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